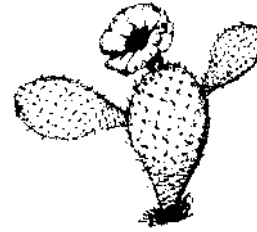


Titanopsis schwantesii

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 6 **October 2003** Number 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Oldies But Goodies

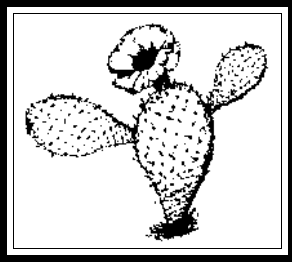
CSSA Slide Presentation

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Oct 14
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at **6:30 PM**

(West of 99 freeway
on corner of Olive drive &
Victor street)

**Thanks to
Everyone that
worked at the
Show & Sale**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 6 Number 10
October 2003

The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society (BCSS) of Bakersfield, California. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the times and places noted within.
GUEST ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

2003 Officers

President - Bonnie East
Vice-President - Terry Skillin
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary - Lynn McDonald
Editors - Stephen Cooley
Linda Cooley

2003 Directors

CSSA Representative - Bobby Williams
Past President - Rob Skillin

2003 Chairpersons

Hospitality - Bill McDonald
Librarians - Matt & Sylvia Ekegren

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Bonnie opened the meeting at 7:00. The new Club T-shirts were unveiled and many were sold. Various meetings and club “doings” were announced: a meeting for planning our fair exhibit, the weekend trip to Vista, and, of course, our upcoming show and sale. Lynn also mentioned our October trip to the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden. Bonnie discussed the new fee for using the meeting room at the church; it will cost us \$50 per meeting. Lots of info was mentioned regarding the show and sale. And it was announced that we would be having a BIG raffle tonight immediately after the program so that members could spend some time potting up and cleaning some plants.

Terry then showed us a splendid Powerpoint presentation, which was created by her son Paul. It showed many aspects of our club and was entertaining as well as informative. They hope to add to the presentation, so any members who have photos of club activities are encouraged to loan them copies of the photos. Thanks to Maynard who supplied the “hardware” for the presentation. After the presentation, members



gathered for the raffle. Lots of plants were given away. Then we proceeded to the other room where we were supplied with the materials to repot and clean up our plants to get them ready for the show! It was a very fun and helpful meeting.

The 2004 Kern County Fair

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

September 30, 2003

Lynn was unable to attend, so Linda is writing up the meeting.

Maynard, Bonnie, Terry and Linda were present at the meeting, which was held at Terry and Rob's house. It was announced that we won another First Place for our exhibit at the Fair. Bonnie mentioned that Lowell at Magic Gardens would be happy to hand out club fliers at his business and that he might have a place where the club can meet. Bonnie will seek further information. The Show and Sale is proceeding well. Terry will call and try to fill up the sign-up sheet for working. T-shirts will be sold at the show and sale as well. Maynard mentioned that the club has \$1300 in the bank. Elections will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. Future programs were discussed and the Plant of the Month was chosen. (More info in this issue...) The next meeting will be at Linda and Maynard's house on Oct. 28.



PROGRAM NOTES

“Oldies But Goodies”

October's program will be the CSSA slide show, "Oldies But Goodies". This slide show is of interest for both the novice and advance collector. This is a program about cacti that have been in cultivation for years. It is a program developed by Dorothy Williams, using slides taken by the late John and Lillian Heins of the Bay Area. From *Opuntia* to *Lophophora* (peyote), come and learn about the typical plants we can find in most collections. This will be fun and amusing, and informative. A sure crowd pleaser! Hope to see you all there!

Terry



HIGH ON HOODIA? A Letter From Bruce

Let me tell you that I am concerned about the level of reporting in our different media organizations both in the public and private media.



-Boyce Sebetela, Minister of
Communications, Science and Technology,
"Daily News," 8th Sept. 2003

On 1st Sept., "The Meggi Monitor" came out with an article stating, "A clandestine syndicate in Molepolole is ferrying out the highly sought after Hoodia plant to an American pharmaceutical giant." Since I know no *Hoodia* grows near Molepolole this puzzled me. Moffat Setshogo from the University thought it might be *Opuntia ficus-indica*. Polly remarked, "that doesn't look anything like *Hoodia*", but I pointed out that a picture of *Pachypodium lealei* on a poster of plants alleged (but not proven) to be in Botswana brought forth a specimen of *Monadenium lugardii* - totally different!

The mystery was solved on 5th Sept. when "The Botswana Guardian" came out with an article on "USA firm named in theft of Botswana herbs". They blamed Pfizer [sic] agent Kenna Odirile for the loss of "Hoodia cactus". The picture, however, clearly showed the true cactus *Trichocereus spachianus*, a plant from Western Argentina which is a declared weed in South Africa! David Mmui, Acting Secretary of the Agricultural Resources Board came to see us on Monday 8th Sept., the same day the government paper "Daily News" came out with more cactus pictures under the title "Batswana export plant to America illegally".

On Tuesday, a group of us went to Molepolole and Kanye and saw where the cactus had been cut. As we suspected, no *Hoodia* was involved. Near the royal cemetery at Molepolole there were piles of cut cacti which had not yet been sliced up and dried for shipping. I imagine the American Company, Ashley Industries will be surprised when cactus shipments arrive in Texas! The genus *Trichocereus* contains mescaline, as does Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) which is a hallucinogen. The consequences might be interesting if it were included in a weight loss pill.

Ashley Industries sent out a letter last May offering \$50,000 per month for Hoodia. Although the picture on the letter is good, it, apparently, caused the present mistaken identity. Pfizer is not involved in Botswana as far as I know.



Nonofo Mosesane with harvested *Trichocereus*
at the royal cemetery at Molepolole

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa isolated a compound they call P57 from *Hoodia gordonii* which is useful for slimming. The patent was leased to Phytopharm of England which in turn sold it to Pfizer in the U.S. (Pfizer withdrew from the patent last July.) The plant in Botswana is *Hoodia currouri* and, so far, has not been used commercially.

On Sunday, 14th Sept., Botswana TV News showed an interview with my counterpart Nonofo Mosesane and the true story was finally aired. (I would have been there for the interview, but they said they would come at 11 a.m. on Thurs. the 11th but didn't show up until 4:30, by which time I was at the University finishing a talk on endangered species of Madagascar!)

I got my two cents worth in on Wed. 17th Sept. when I gave a talk at the Museum called "The Truth about *Hoodia*." I pointed out that although the present harvest was a joke, Botswana badly needs laws protecting *Hoodia* and other valuable plants. Moffat and I included *Hoodia currouri* in the Red Data List we published last year and I included it on the list I gave to the Agricultural Resources Board over a year ago to be added to the Act which presently only lists the grapple thorn (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) on its regulations.

The "Gazette" came out the same day with an interview of Nonofo and myself on *Hoodia*. It was accompanied by photos of each of us in color. Botswana TV arrived at the end of my talk and taped an interview for their news. The "Daily News" on Friday had a front-page headline

"Hoodia: Wild Goose Chase". "Wena", an environmental magazine sent a journalist to Molepolole with us. (The same one who interviewed me on *Hoodia* last year, but since the article was in Setswana, I'm not sure if I was quoted correctly.) We've finally been noticed.

It hasn't all been *Hoodia*. A skeleton was found when they dug a trench for sewage lines at the Botanic Garden. We have been waiting weeks for archaeology to come and dig it out. (We're not even sure if it's human. At first I thought it was too small, but then I realized how small a young, female San skeleton would be if such it is.)

We went to a local musical "Proud Nation" on the 28th August. It was good, but Polly and I were half the audience. They should have done just one night instead of three. In contrast, the concert of Oliver Mtukudzi on the 19th September was a sell-out. He is a leading singer, dancer, and guitar player of Zimbabwe (and wore us out just watching). One of his songs has been taken up as the "anthem of the opposition in Zimbabwe. Another, "What Shall We Do" appears frequently on TV here as an anti-AIDS message. Several times he had half the audience down on the aprons dancing.

We have also been watching Mars at its brightest. It has been quite impressive.

The weather has been really see-sawing here. We had one night just below freezing, followed by weeks of hot weather, and now another cold spell. We've even had some very early sprinkles of rain.

Spot the errors:

"Be careful", she warned him. "The amaryllis is also called a belladonna lily, and belladonna is a poison."

-We'll Meet Again by Mary Higgins Clark, 2000, Pocket Books, London

"... pink was a good choice, because it was hard to get anything for decorations, and she had half a bottle of cochineal, Crushed spiders, crushed spiders, his brothers had mocked, and she had driven them away, and he had stood there alone by the table, watching. It was wartime. Weeks of rationed sugar had gone into the icing."

-The Ice Age by Margaret Drabble, 1978, Penguin, Hammondsorth, U.K.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

The 4th Annual Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

BCSS members,

I just want to thank a few people who helped make the show a success.

First, and foremost, **Matt and Sylvia Ekegren**. Matt has been a great help for publicity, contacting distributors, and getting us a lot of press coverage. He also re-wrote the whole list for publicity sources, so they are updated, and more legible. Thanks Matt. and Sylvia graciously translated the info flyers into Spanish... all hand typed. Thirdly, I would like to thank Joan Swenson for mentioning our Show and Sale in the 27th's paper. And last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank Maynard Moe for heading this great event.

Paul Skillin



The Show and Sale Awards report:



Woody Minnich was our judge for the second year running. He judged plants in all classes and awarded many ribbons. Congratulations to all our club winners! We also had the Club recognition awards, which are awarded anonymously by selected club members, who are encouraged to award the ribbon for any criteria they chose. Congratulations to Brian Adams, Linda Cooley, Maynard Moe, and Rob Skillin who were recognized by their club peers as having

outstanding plants.

Our third category of recognition was the People's Choice Awards. These fun awards are given based on votes by the public, who seem to enjoy participating in our show and sale as well. Congratulations(I think...) to the following:

Ed Colley and his Golden Barrel Cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*), which was voted the **Most Dangerous-Looking Plant**

Maynard Moe and *Euphorbia platyclada*, which is the **Most Dead-Looking Plant**

Rob Skillin and *Haworthia truncata*, the **Most Unusual, Out-of-this-world Plant**

Kirsten Bellur and *Ceropegia woodii*, the **Most Feminine Plant**. (Kirsten is a friend of Lynn and Bill McDonald's).

Rob Skillin and *Melocactus glaucesens* (a fine, upstanding, plant!), which was voted the **Most Masculine!**

Rob Skillin and *Mammillaria hahniana*, which is the **Fuzziest Plant**.

Stephen Cooley and his *Lithops* collection, which won the dubious honor of **Most Resembling Cow Patties, etc.**

and Rob Skillin and *Haworthia truncata*, this time winning the **Plant You Like the Best Award**.

First Place Winners

Abrometiella brevifolia by Jack Kelley
Adenia glauca by Anne Lee
Aeonium atropurpureum
 by Jack & Sydney Kelley
Agave sp. by Vone Zdeneck
Alluadia procera by Ed Colley
Aloe 'Dorian Black' by Lynn McDonald
Aloe reitzii by Linda Cooley
Anacampseros rufescens
 by Bonnie East
Ariocarpus collection
 by Lynn McDonald
Ariocarpus fissuratus by Linda Cooley
Astrophytum ornatum by Ed Cooley
Bombax ellipticum by Linda Cooley
Carnegia gigantea by Ed Colley
Dinteranthus vanzylui
 by Stephen Cooley
Echeveria sp. by Vonne Zdeneck
Echinocereus rubrispinus
 by Lynn McDonald
Eulophia petersii by Terry Skillin
Euphorbia gottliebii by Maynard Moe
Euphorbia platyclada by Maynard Moe
Ferocactus acanthodes by Brian Adams

Fockea crispa by Gordon Sanford
Gasteria 'Green Ice' by Terry Skillin
Gasteria liliputiana by Linda Cooley
Gymnocalycium asterium
 by Linda Cooley
Haworthia truncata by Maynard Moe
Lithops collection by Stephen Cooley
Lobivia crestii by Ed Colley
Mammillaria microthela
 by Lynn McDonald
Melocactus sp. by Bonnie East
Notocactus rudibuenecker
 by Linda Cooley
Opuntia vulgaris by Sydney Kelley
Pachypodium lamerii
 by Stephen Cooley
Raphionacme procumbens
 by Gordon Sanford
Rhpsalis? (Sorry I couldn't remember exactly which it was) by Les Oxford
Rebutia glomeriseta by Sylvia Ekegren
Sansevieria sp. by Terry Skillin
Sedum furfuraceum by Linda Cooley
Thelocactus macdowellii
 by Brian Adams



FIELD TRIPS

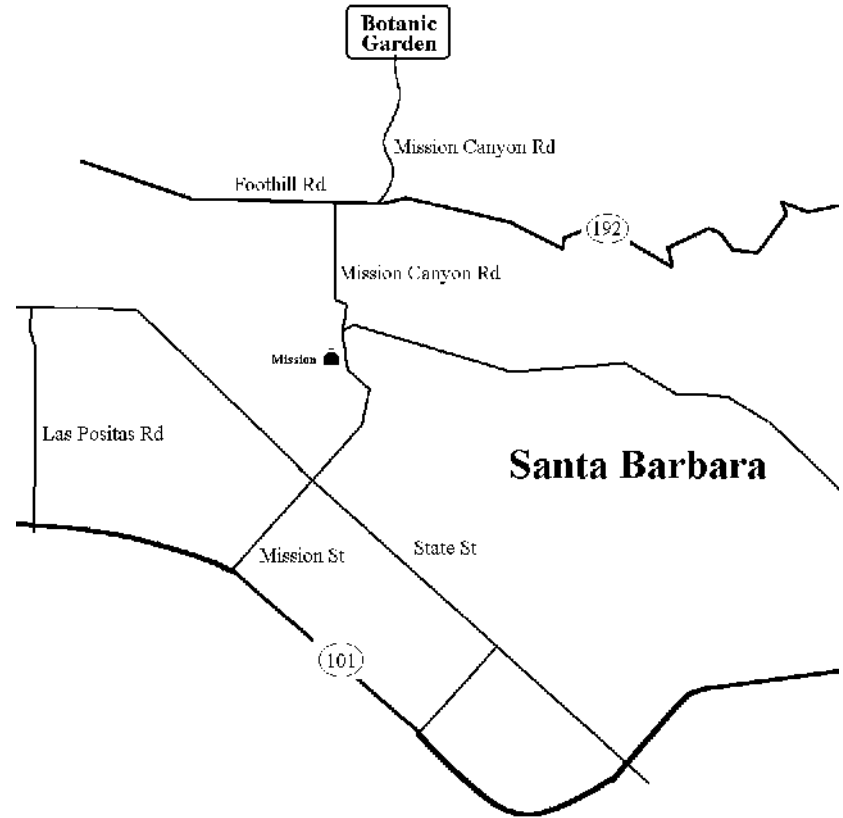
Last Month's Field Trip to Grigsby's & Soledad Nurseries



October 18, 2003

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

The Botanical Garden is having a Show & Sale October 18 and won't be open until 1:00. A stop in Ojai at Desert Images before proceeding to Santa Barbara is likely to be the plan. Due to a lack of parking we may need to park and car pool from in town up to the Garden. Admission is \$6 adults, \$4 seniors 60+, \$3 for teens 13-17 & full time students w/ ID cards, \$1 for kiddos 5-12. We will have to decide at next meeting if we want a guided tour -- there are some to choose from.



Windwolves Preserve

Volunteer Work Party &/or tour.

Lynn



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you won a ribbon at the Show and do not plan on keeping it, please donate it back to the club to be used again.

Woody Minnich will be having a sale at his nursery, **Cactus Data**

Plants on November 1st. Draw to see how much you save!



BE SURE TO VISIT US AT:
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

CALENDAR

Oct 14 BCSS meeting

Oct.18 BCSS Field Trip to the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden

Oct.18-19 San Gabriel Valley C&SS 10th Annual Winter Show & Sale.
9am-5pm each day. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave,
Arcadia

Oct 28 BCSS Executive meeting at Maynard & Linda's

Nov 8-9 Windwolves Preserve Field Trip.

Nov 11 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

Speaker: Tom Glavich

Presentation: Succulent Bromeliads

Dec 9 BCSS meeting. Olive Drive Church

Auction/raffle/potluck.

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors

**To have your article printed in
The Cactus Patch get in touch with:**

Stephen Cooley, editor

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley, editor

Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$10 per year for an individual and only \$15 a year for a family. This extraordinarily reasonable price not only includes twelve issues of The Cactus Patch but entitles you to participate in club field trips to far-off (out-of-town) and exotic places (more exotic than Bakersfield). You will also receive a nifty name tag that will be your ticket to the members only plant raffle held every meeting featuring the best plant from the raffle table! All this is in addition to the wonderful programs and people at the meetings. To become a member contact:

Maynard Moe, treasurer

Lithops44@bak.rr.com